

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 002329

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/13/2015

TAGS: PREL PTER KNNP CH IS IR IN GOI EXTERNAL MILITARY RELATIONS COUNTERTERRORISM

SUBJECT: ISRAEL-PRC STRATEGIC DIALOGUE FOCUSSES ON IRAN AND THE DPRK

REF: BEIJING 6059 (NOTAL)

Classified By: Political Counselor Norm Olsen;
reasons: 1.4 (B) and (D) .

1. (C) Summary: Israeli MFA Director General Ron Proser (D-equivalent) led a GOI team to China April 3-5 for a strategic dialogue on arms control and terrorism issues. MFA Arms Control Director Alon Bar briefed poloff on the talks after the team's return to Israel. Bar's assessment, which tracks closely with Embassy Beijing's report (reftel), is that the dialogue facilitated a "good exchange of views," but did not produce any concrete results. According to Bar, the Chinese raised Israeli defense exports to India and Taiwan, but did not mention recent Chinese-Israeli disputes such as the Phalcon case. The GOI urged China to support the EU-3/USG approach to Iran, while PRC officials recommended patience in dealing with North Korea. The two sides also discussed terrorism and arms control issues. Bar said that the strategic dialogue would continue, although neither side proposed a date for the next meeting. End Summary.

Chinese Raise Defense Exports to India and Taiwan

2. (C) According to Bar, PRC officials did not raise the issue of Israeli military sales to China. He noted, however, that during meetings with a quasi-governmental research institute, the Chinese had expressed concerns about Israeli defense exports to India and Taiwan. He said the Chinese cautioned the Israelis "not to encourage a regional arms race" and objected strongly to any missile defense sales to Taiwan. In response, the GOI team briefed the Chinese MFA on their overall view of the ballistic missile threat and the development of the Arrow ballistic missile defense system. Bar said the Chinese replied that efforts should focus on nonproliferation activities, not missile defense.

Israelis Push on Iran; Chinese Urge Patience with the DPRK

3. (C) Bar said that the meeting with Chinese VFM Zhang Yesui focused on Iran, the Middle East peace process, and Lebanon/Syria, while other meetings at the MFA dealt largely with Iran and North Korea. Proser urged the Chinese to "stay on board" with the EU-3 and U.S. approach to Iran. According to Bar, Zhang strongly supported Iran's right to a peaceful nuclear program, agreed with international efforts to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons, and was vague on whether China would support Iranian efforts to obtain some level of an enrichment process. Bar said that the GOI delegation left with the impression that China would not want to see the issue brought to the UNSC, but "wouldn't stand alone to protect Iran" if a majority of Council members had a different view. He added that the Chinese had urged patience in dealing with North Korea and told the Israelis that there is "little chance for progress" without direct U.S.-DPRK talks.

Other Issues: Terrorism, MANPADS and Arms Control

4. (C) Noting that terrorism was intended to be one of the main agenda items in the strategic dialogue, Bar expressed surprise that it had been barely discussed at all. He claimed that the Chinese had regressed from their previous position and spoken vaguely about differences between "ideological" and "economic" terrorism. Bar said that the GOI team raised MANPADS, but their points did not elicit a reply from the Chinese. Bar listed other issues covered during the dialogue as the Conference on Disarmament (CD), Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC). According to Bar, the Chinese reiterated their opposition to the USG's Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) proposal and maintained that the "A5" language was the best basis for consensus. Bar noted that both sides had agreed to continue the strategic dialogue, but had not set a date for the next meeting.

Visit Embassy Tel Aviv's Classified Website:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/telaviv>

You can also access this site through the State Department's
Classified SIPRNET website.

CRETZ